

Members

Rep. John Gregg, Chairman
Sen. Robert Garton, Vice-Chairman
Sen. Richard Young
Sen. Harold Wheeler
Sen. Joseph Harrison
Sen. Patricia Miller
Sen. Thomas Wyss
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Earline Rogers
Rep. Mark Kruzan
Rep. Dale Grubb
Rep. William Cochran
Rep. Charlie Brown
Rep. Richard Mangus
Rep. Kathy Richardson
Rep. Brian Bosma



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Philip J. Sachtleben, Attorney for the Council
Diane Powers, Fiscal Analyst for the Council

Authority: IC 2-5-1.1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 10, 2002
Meeting Time: 1 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. John Gregg, Chairman; Sen. Robert Garton, Vice-Chairman; Sen. Richard Young; Sen. Joseph Harrison; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Thomas Wyss; Sen. James Lewis; Sen. Earline Rogers; Rep. Mark Kruzan; Rep. William Cochran; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Richard Mangus; Rep. Kathy Richardson; Rep. Brian Bosma.

Members Absent: Sen. Harold Wheeler; Rep. Dale Grubb.

Speaker Gregg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm. He noted that Senator Wheeler was excused.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

The first item of business was the reconsideration of proposed LCR 02-05 concerning the Indiana Chamber of Commerce request to establish a link between its web site and the portion of the General Assembly's web site that includes the broadcast of House and Senate sessions. In response to Senator Miller's question, Mr. Sachtleben explained that the original version had been changed to specify that neither the public or Chamber subscribers would be required to pay anything to get to the broadcasts if this Resolution would be adopted. In response to Representative Brown's question, Mr. Sachtleben explained that under a law passed in 2001 any party may make this sort of request to the Legislative Council if the party desires a link to the broadcast site. After correction of a spelling error noted by Representative Bosma, LCR 02-05 (revised) was adopted by consent.

The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Justice Frank Sullivan of the Indiana Supreme Court concerning the "Integrated Statewide Case Management Program" of the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC). The justice noted that Indiana's court must deal with 1.5 million cases per year, and that this system will be designed to manage each of them. He stated that the system will be designed not only for the judiciary: rather, the General Assembly and many Executive Branch agencies will be able to benefit from it.

In response to Senator Harrison's question, the Justice said that this would be a voluntary system with respect to the 92 counties. Marion County has agreed to be the pilot county, and he expects most if not all other counties will be interested in participating.

In response to a comment by Senator Garton, the Justice acknowledged that a similar system in Cincinnati was recently in the news because that jurisdiction had decided to put all trial court transcripts on the system. This became controversial when some "messy" divorces were discovered by the media, etc. The Justice stated that there were competing interests (privacy vs. the public's right to know) involved and that he would suggest that the judiciary and the General Assembly work together to come up with the correct public policy in this area.

Representative Richardson commented that this system would be very helpful to the Clerk of the Courts where she is employed in that it would save hundreds of weekly phone calls from attorneys and litigants asking what the status of some filing or ruling was.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by the State Fire Marshal, Mr. Tracy Boatwright concerning the regulation of fireworks in this state. Marshal Boatwright explained the current laws regulating the sale and use of fireworks, and then described the geometric increase in the number of fireworks wholesalers after Indiana enacted its current statutory system. He explained that he has been in court many times as the State Fire Marshal. He said that every time he attempted to aggressively go after what he thought was a violation of our law that he had been subject to an injunction. He asked the Legislative Council to consider having the General Assembly decide exactly which fireworks are permitted, and exactly which are prohibited. This would make his job a lot easier and would save uncounted injuries.

In response to a question from Representative Brown, the Marshal stated that he did not have any way to estimate how many injuries or deaths were caused each

year by fireworks.

Senator Young noted that he had heard that the majority of fireworks-related accidents involved legal (as opposed to illegal) fireworks. The Marshal stated that this may be true, citing the injury that a simple sparkler can cause.

Senator Wyss stated that he would prefer a "local option" solution to the problem. He felt that if a county decided it did not want fireworks, then it could direct its prosecutor and the rest of the law enforcement community to go after violators.

The final item on the agenda was a presentation by the LSA concerning the statewide property tax data base that the agency has developed. Mr. Sachtleben described the reasons the agency had decided to gather data from the auditor and assessor in each of the 92 counties. Mr. Bob Sigalow then described exactly how the project has proceeded to gather and digest data into an Access and eventually into an Oracle data base. He then described how this new data had already been used to improve the DeBoer property tax shift model, and the other ways the agency intends to use it. Mr. Sigalow and Ms. Diane Powers, Director of OFMA, then answered a variety of committee questions that were primarily directed at the county by county impact of Enrolled House Bill 1001 (ss).

The Chairman noted that he would not be entertaining requests by interim committees or commissions for additional funding or deadline extension. However, he did agree to schedule a third meeting of the Legislative Council at which time the Council could consider such requests. [NB. The Chairman subsequently set October 17, 2002 at 1:00 PM as the date for that third meeting.]

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.